

To best express my feelings about the Morse code requirements for an amateur radio license, I would like to relate to you a story told to me by my wife.

My wife, who is a geologist and amateur radio operator, was working on a federal project at the NASA Marshall Spaceflight Center - Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama. The project called for her to travel to various parts of the huge complex to do water quality testing. The Center provided an elderly retired gentleman, a volunteer, to guide her to the various sites. She struck up a conversation with the man. He was a retired PhD Electrical Engineer who worked on radio communications with the Apollo moon program. She asked him if he was an amateur radio operator. He said “no, why should I be forced to learn an archaic code to communicate by radio”.

How many of our “best and brightest” American astronauts have upgraded their no-code Technician license?

The memorization of the Morse code is an impediment for otherwise qualified individuals to receive an advanced amateur radio license.

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